रखते हुए की जाती हैं। अगर किसी शाखा में रिक्तियां कम होती हैं तो पदोन्नतियां भी उसी हिसाब से होती हैं। रिक्तियों की संख्या हर वर्ष और हर शाखा में अलग-अलग होती हैं।

(ग) प्रशासनिक शाखा में पदोन्नति संबंधी नीति/उपलब्ध रिक्तियों की संख्या के संबंध में किसी तरह का असंतोष हमारी जानकारी में नहीं लाया गया है।

(घ) और (ङ) भारतीय वायुसेना की प्रशासनिक शाखा के लिए सरकार द्वारा प्राधिकृत स्थापना में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं किया गया है।

**Major set back from resource crunch**

1588. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief of Army staff is apprehending major setback accruing from the resource crunch especially tardy progress in revenue works, modernisation requirements, capital works etc.; and

(b) if so, how this situation has developed and what remedial measures are bieng adopted so that defence forces are always prepared in all respects to defend the territorial integrity of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU): (a) The Chief of Army staff has invited attention over the shortage of funds.

(b) The Government is committed to maintain adequate level of Defence preparedness to meet any threat to national security and territorial integrity. Allocation to Defence is made within the overall resource availability keeping in view requirements of national security and other sectors of economy.

Currently, a total of Rs. 32000 crores have been provided for the Defence Forces in BE 1997-98. Of this, Rs. 16537.05 crores has been allocated to Army for meeting its Revenue and Capital requiremnts. In addition, Rs. 3620 crores have also been provided for meeting the expected liability on account of 5th Pay Commission. Further, the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech has promised that any additional requiremnt of Defence for Capital expenditure will be adequately provided for during the course of the year.

**Vacancies in the Ministry**

1589. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 2601 and 4156 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19th March, 1997 and 14th May, 1997 respectively, and state:

(a) what actions have been proposed by the various authorities for filling up of 30 vacancies in Group 'D' post in the reserved category of OBC and upto which specific date all selection formalities will be completed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 9 candidates who were declared selected in Group 'D' post (Mazdoor) in January 1997 in Central Ordnance Depot, Shakurbasti, Delhi who were sponsored by the Employment Exchanges on genuine records are still awaiting for joining their duties after completing all selection formalities;

(c) if so, the names of those selected candidates who are allowed to join their duties; and

(d) the further action contemplated in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU): (a) Out of the 30 posts intimated earlier, 4 posts have been filled. For two posts, the selection has been made and the pre-appointment formalities are being completed. For the remaining 24 posts, Employment Exchange is being pursued for sponsoring suitable candidates.

(b) to (d) The appointment letters have not been issued to the 9 candidates since the verification of character and antecedents is being completed as per Rules. Appointment letters will be issued to these 9 candidates as soon as the same is completed.